

In the claims:

This listing will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the subject application.

1. (Currently amended) A composition comprising a blend of a poly(vinyl alcohol) and a graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide), the blend having improved melt processability and mechanical properties without the addition of plasticizers; and

wherein the graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) comprises a poly(ethylene oxide) backbone main chain, and one or more chains derived from one or more monomers that differ chemically or configurationally from the poly(ethylene oxide) backbone, and wherein the one or more chains are bonded at one or more points along the poly(ethylene oxide) backbone, and

wherein the graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) is prepared from poly(ethylene oxide) resins having a weight average molecular weight from about 100,000 g/mol to about 8,000,000 g/mol.

2. (Cancelled).

²~~3~~. (Previously presented) The composition of Claim 1, wherein the one or more monomers comprise one or more vinyl monomers.

³~~4~~. (Previously presented) The composition of Claim 1, wherein the one or more monomers comprise one or more polar vinyl monomers.

³~~4~~. (Previously presented) The composition of Claim ³~~4~~, wherein the one or more polar vinyl monomers are selected from the group consisting of 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate, poly(ethylene glycol) methacrylates, poly(ethylene glycol) ethyl ether methacrylates, poly(ethylene glycol) acrylates, poly(ethylene glycol) ethyl ether acrylate, poly(ethylene glycol) methacrylates with terminal hydroxyl groups, acrylic acid, maleic anhydride, itaconic acid, sodium acrylate, 3-hydroxypropyl methacrylate, acrylamide,

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glycidyl methacrylate, 2-bromoethyl acrylate, carboxyethyl acrylate, methacrylic acid, 2-chloroacrylonitrile, 4-chlorophenyl acrylate, 2-cyanoethyl acrylate, glycidyl acrylate, 4-nitrophenyl acrylate, pentabromophenyl acrylate, poly(propylene glycol) methacrylate, poly(propylene glycol) acrylate, 2-propene-1-sulfonic acid and its sodium salt, sulfo ethyl methacrylate, 3-sulfopropyl methacrylate, and 3-sulfopropyl acrylate.

5. (Previously presented) The composition of Claim 1, wherein the graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) comprises from about 1 to about 30 weight percent of a polar vinyl monomer, a polar vinyl oligomer or a combination thereof, relative to the weight of the polyethylene oxide.

6. (Previously presented) The composition of Claim 1, wherein the one or more monomers comprise one or more hydroxyalkyl esters of methacrylic acid.

7. (Previously presented) The composition of Claim 1, wherein the one or more monomers comprise 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate.

8. (Previously presented) The composition of Claim 1, wherein the graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) is thermoplastic and water soluble, and wherein the poly(vinyl alcohol) is thermoplastic and water soluble, and wherein the composition is thermoplastic and water-soluble without the addition of plasticizers.

9. (Previously presented) The composition of Claim 1, wherein the ~~compatible~~ blend comprises, based on the total weight of the graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) and the poly(vinyl alcohol), from about 1 weight percent to about 99 weight percent of the graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) and from about 1 weight percent to about 99 weight percent of poly(vinyl alcohol).

10. (Previously presented) The composition of Claim 1, wherein the ~~compatible~~ blend comprises, based on the total weight of the graft copolymer of poly(ethylene

oxide) and the poly(vinyl alcohol), from about 10 weight percent to about 90 weight percent of the graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) and from about 10 weight percent to about 90 weight percent of poly(vinyl alcohol).

¹¹
~~12~~. (Previously presented) The composition of Claim 1, wherein the ~~compatible~~ blend comprises, based on the total weight of the graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) and the poly(vinyl alcohol), from about 10 weight percent to about 50 weight percent of the graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) and from about 50 weight percent to about 90 weight percent of poly(vinyl alcohol).

¹²
~~13~~. (Currently amended) A thermoplastic, water-soluble composition comprising a blend of a poly(vinyl alcohol) and a graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide);

wherein the graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) comprises a poly(ethylene oxide) backbone main chain, and one or more chains derived from one or more monomers that differ chemically or configurationally from the poly(ethylene oxide) backbone, and wherein the one or more chains are bonded at one or more points along the poly(ethylene oxide) backbone, and

wherein the graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) is prepared from poly(ethylene oxide) resins having a weight average molecular weight from about 100,000 g/mol to about 8,000,000 g/mol.

¹³
~~14~~. (Previously presented) The composition of Claim ¹²~~13~~, wherein the one or more monomers comprise one or more vinyl monomers.

¹⁴
~~15~~. (Previously presented) The composition of Claim ¹²~~13~~, wherein the one or more monomers comprise one or more polar vinyl monomers.

¹⁵
~~16~~. (Previously presented) The composition of Claim ¹²~~13~~, wherein the one or more monomers comprise one or more polar vinyl monomers selected from the group

consisting of 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate, poly(ethylene glycol) methacrylates, poly(ethylene glycol) ethyl ether methacrylates, poly(ethylene glycol) acrylates, poly(ethylene glycol) ethyl ether acrylate, poly(ethylene glycol) methacrylates with terminal hydroxyl groups, acrylic acid, maleic anhydride, itaconic acid, sodium acrylate, 3-hydroxypropyl methacrylate, acrylamide, glycidyl methacrylate, 2-bromoethyl acrylate, carboxyethyl acrylate, methacrylic acid, 2-chloroacrylonitrile, 4-chlorophenyl acrylate, 2-cyanoethyl acrylate, glycidyl acrylate, 4-nitrophenyl acrylate, pentabromophenyl acrylate, poly(propylene glycol) methacrylate, poly(propylene glycol) acrylate, 2-propene-1-sulfonic acid and its sodium salt, sulfo ethyl methacrylate, 3-sulfopropyl methacrylate, and 3-sulfopropyl acrylate.

¹⁶
~~17~~. (Previously presented) The composition of Claim ¹²~~13~~, wherein the graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) comprises from about 1 to about 30 weight percent of polar vinyl monomer, polar vinyl oligomer or a combination thereof, relative to the weight of the poly(ethylene oxide).

¹⁷
~~18~~. (Previously presented) The composition of Claim ¹²~~13~~, wherein the one or more monomers comprise one or more hydroxyalkyl esters of methacrylic acid.

¹⁸
~~19~~. (Previously presented) The composition of Claim ¹²~~13~~, wherein the one or more monomers comprise 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate.

¹⁹
~~20~~. (Previously presented) The composition of Claim ¹²~~13~~, wherein the graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) is thermoplastic and water-soluble, and wherein the poly(vinyl alcohol) is thermoplastic and water soluble.

²⁰
~~21~~. (Previously presented) The composition of Claim ¹²~~13~~, wherein the compatible blend comprises, based on the total weight of the graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) and the poly(vinyl alcohol), from about 1 weight percent to about 99 weight

percent of the graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) and from about 1 weight percent to about 99 weight percent of the poly(vinyl alcohol).

²¹/₂₂ (Previously presented) The composition of Claim ¹²/~~13~~, wherein the ~~compatible~~ blend comprises, based on the total weight of the graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) and the poly(vinyl alcohol), from about 10 weight percent to about 90 weight percent of the graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) and from about 10 weight percent to about 90 weight percent of the poly(vinyl alcohol).

²²/₂₃ (Previously presented) The composition of Claim ¹²/~~13~~, wherein the ~~compatible~~ blend comprises, based on the total weight of the graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) and the poly(vinyl alcohol), from about 10 weight percent to about 50 weight percent of the graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) and from about 50 weight percent to about 90 weight percent of the poly(vinyl alcohol).

²³/₂₄ (Currently amended) A thermoplastic, water-soluble composition consisting essentially of a blend of a poly(vinyl alcohol) and a graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide);

wherein the graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) comprises a poly(ethylene oxide) backbone main chain, and one or more chains derived from one or more monomers that differ chemically or configurationally from the poly(ethylene oxide) backbone, and wherein the one or more chains are bonded at one or more points along the poly(ethylene oxide) backbone, and

wherein the graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) is prepared from poly(ethylene oxide) resins having a weight average molecular weight from about 100 000 g/mol to about 8,000,000 g/mol.

²⁴/₂₅ (Previously presented) The composition of Claim ²³/~~24~~, wherein the one or more monomers comprise one or more polar vinyl monomers.

~~25~~
~~26.~~ (Previously presented) The composition of Claim ~~24~~²³, wherein the one or more monomers comprise one or more hydroxyalkyl esters of methacrylic acid.

~~26~~
~~27.~~ (Original) A film comprising the composition of Claim 1.

~~27~~
~~28.~~ (Original) A fiber comprising the composition of Claim 1.

~~28~~
~~29.~~ (Original) An article comprising the composition of Claim 1.

~~29~~
~~30.~~ (Original) A personal care article comprising the composition of Claim 1.

~~30~~
~~31.~~ (Original) The article of Claim ~~30~~²⁹, wherein the personal care article is a diaper.

~~31~~
~~32.~~ (Original) The article of Claim ~~30~~²⁹, wherein the personal care article is a pantiliner.

33-43. (Canceled)